

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1           1.       A method for determining taxes for a transaction by applying tax  
2 rules specified using configurable templates, comprising:  
3           receiving the transaction for which taxes are to be determined;  
4           examining a configurable template associated with a tax rule, wherein the  
5 configurable template identifies a set of attributes associated with the transaction;  
6           examining a set of conditions for the set of attributes; and  
7           if each condition in the set of conditions is satisfied, using a process result  
8 associated with the set of conditions in determining a tax for the transaction.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the set of conditions is not  
2 satisfied and if an alternative set of conditions for the set of attributes is satisfied,  
3 the method further comprises using an alternative process result associated with  
4 the alternative set of conditions in determining the tax for the transaction.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the tax rule does not apply to the  
2 transaction and additional tax rules exist, the method further comprises attempting  
3 to apply the next tax rule in the order of precedence in the process of determining  
4 and/or the transaction.

1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein the additional tax rules are applied  
2 in a sequence determined by a precedence ordering of the additional tax rules.

1           5.       The method of claim 4, wherein the precedence ordering allows the  
2 user to configure the system in a way that more specific tax rules are applied  
3 before more general tax rules are applied.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a user to  
2 modify configurable templates associated with the tax rules.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies whether or  
2 not a specific tax is applicable to the transaction.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax rate that  
2 is used determining in the tax amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax status  
2 that is used determining in the tax amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1           9.       The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a taxable  
2 basis formula that is used in determining the tax amount for a tax applicable to the  
3 transaction.

1           10.      The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax  
2 calculation formula that is used in determining the tax amount for a tax applicable  
3 to the transaction.

1           11.      The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a tax  
2 recovery rate that is used in determining the tax recovery amount for a tax  
3 applicable to the transaction.

1           12.     The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule specifies a result that  
2 is used in determining the outcome of any process of determining or administering  
3 taxes that are applicable to the transaction.

1           13.     The method of claim 1, wherein determining the tax for the  
2 transaction involves:  
3           determining which taxes are applicable to the transaction;  
4           determining a taxable basis for the transaction;  
5           determining an applicable tax rate for the transaction; and  
6 calculating the tax for the transaction.

1           14.     The method of claim 1, wherein different sets of tax rules can be  
2 associated with different local jurisdictions.

1           15.     The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rule, the configurable  
2 template and the set of conditions reside in a database.

1           16.     The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rules specified using  
2 configurable templates are applied to processes other than determining taxes such  
3 as processes of administering taxes.

1           17.     The method of claim 1, wherein the tax rules specified using  
2 configurable templates may be applied to a few but not all processes for  
3 determining or administering taxes.

1           18.     The method of claim 1, wherein the system allows tax rules to be  
2 created for a hierarchy of tax regimes in such a way as to allow the specification  
3 of a general rule for a higher-level regime, and increasingly specific rules down  
4 the regime hierarchy to the level of taxes in the lowest level of regime.

1           19.     The method of claim 1, wherein the system allows tax rules to be  
2 defined for subscribers according to an open subscription model that allows  
3 sharing of rules across subscribers in a subscription hierarchy

1           20.     A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that  
2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for  
3 determining taxes for a transaction by applying tax rules specified using  
4 configurable templates, the method comprising:  
5           receiving the transaction for which taxes are to be determined;  
6           examining a configurable template associated with a tax rule, wherein the  
7 configurable template identifies a set of attributes associated with the transaction;  
8           examining a set of conditions for the set of attributes; and  
9           if each condition in the set of conditions is satisfied, using a process result  
10 associated with the set of conditions in determining a tax for the transaction.

1           21.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein if the  
2 set of conditions is not satisfied and if an alternative set of conditions for the set  
3 of attributes is satisfied, the method further comprises using an alternative process

4 result associated with the alternative set of conditions in determining the tax for  
5 the transaction.

1 22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein if the  
2 tax rule does not apply to the transaction and additional tax rules exist, the method  
3 further comprises attempting to apply the additional tax rules to the transaction.

1 23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the  
2 additional tax rules are applied in a sequence determined by a precedence ordering  
3 of the additional tax rules.

1 14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the  
2 precedence ordering causes more specific tax rules to be applied before more  
3 general tax rules are applied.

1 15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 method further comprises allowing a user to modify configurable templates  
3 associated with the tax rules.

1 26. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies whether or not a specific tax is applicable to the transaction.

1 27. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a tax rate that is used determining the tax for the transaction.

1           28.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a tax status that is used determining in the tax amount for a tax  
3 applicable to the transaction.

1           29.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a taxable basis formula that is used in determining the tax  
3 amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1           30.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a tax calculation formula that is used in determining the tax  
3 amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1           31.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a tax recovery rate that is used in determining the tax recovery  
3 amount for a tax applicable to the transaction.

1           32.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule specifies a result that is used in determining the outcome of any process of  
3 determining or administering taxes that are applicable to the transaction.

1           33.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein  
2 determining the tax for the transaction involves:  
3           determining which taxes are applicable to the transaction;  
4           determining a taxable basis for the transaction;  
5           determining an applicable tax rate for the transaction; and  
6           calculating the tax for the transaction.

1           34.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein  
2 different sets of tax rules can be associated with different local jurisdictions.

1           35.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rule, the configurable template and the set of conditions reside in a database.

1           36.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rules specified using configurable templates are applied to processes other  
3 than determining taxes such as processes of administering taxes.

1           37.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 tax rules specified using configurable templates may be applied to a few but not  
3 all processes for determining or administering taxes.

1           38.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 system allows tax rules to be created for a hierarchy of tax regimes in such a way  
3 as to allow the specification of a general rule for a higher-level regime, and  
4 increasingly specific rules down the regime hierarchy to the level of taxes in the  
5 lowest level of regime.

1           39.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the  
2 system allows tax rules to be defined for subscribers according to an open  
3 subscription model that allows sharing of rules across subscribers in a  
4 subscription hierarchy

1           40.     An apparatus that determine taxes for a transaction by applying tax  
2 rules specified using configurable templates, comprising:

3           a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive the transaction for  
4   which taxes are to be determined;  
5           a retrieval mechanism that is configured to retrieve a configurable  
6   template associated with a tax rule, wherein the configurable template identifies a  
7   set of attributes associated with the transaction;  
8           wherein the retrieval mechanism is additionally configured to retrieve a set  
9   of conditions for the set of attributes; and  
10          a tax determination mechanism that is configured to use a process result  
11   associated with the set of conditions in determining a tax for the transaction if  
12   each condition in the set of conditions is satisfied.